

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed July 2, 2004, and in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination filed contemporaneously herewith.

In accordance with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith the Examiner is requested to withdraw the finality of the Office Action dated July 2, 2004.

Original claims 1-5 have been canceled, and new claims 6-9 have been provided.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 6,047,426, a predecessor of the present application, for double-patenting under 35 U.S.C. §101, and claims 2-4 were rejected under the judicially-created Doctrine of Obviousness-type double-patenting, over the claims of applicant's prior patents 5,697,114 and the previously mentioned U.S. Patent No. 6,047,426. Those rejections have been overcome by the present Amendment by the cancellation of original claims 1-5.

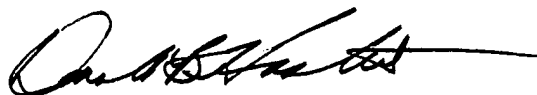
The Examiner is respectfully requested to examine newly added claims 6-9, and should the Examiner consider the subject matter of any of the new claims 6-9 to be obvious over the claims of applicant's prior U.S. patent 6,047,426 or any others of the predecessors of this application in the family of patents beginning with U.S. Patent No. 5,697,114 applicant's assignee is prepared to provide a suitable terminal disclaimer.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the application or the Amendments herein the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Appl. No. 10/813,787
Amdt. dated December 1, 2004
Response to Office Action of July 2, 2004

This Amendment is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time and the requisite fee therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald B. Haslett", is written over a horizontal line.

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